CLAIMS

1   1. A method for sharing a device in a computer system between operating system uses and

2   non-operating system uses, comprising:

3   generating a false remove signal in regard to a device;

4   placing said device in a sleep state;

5   using said device for non-operating system uses;

6   awakening said device from sleep and returning it to the operating system.

1   2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the false remove signal is generated in

2   response to a request to divert the device.

1   3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the operating system consults tables upon

2   receipt of the remove signal to determine the meaning of the signal and the device involved.

1   4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the device is used to perform a BIOS update.

1   5. The method according to claim 1, wherein data present in the device is stored in memory

2   when the device is put in a sleep state and returned to the device when it is awakened.

1   6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said awakening is in response to a second

2   false signal.

1   7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said device is a processor.

1   8. An apparatus for sharing a device between operating system uses and non-operating

2 system uses, comprising:

3   a plurality of devices;

4   a controller connected to said devices through a bus;

5   a memory connected to said controller;

6   means to request access to a device for non-operating system uses;

7   said controller generating a false remove event in response to a request to divert the device,

8 putting the device to sleep and granting control of the device to non-operating system uses for a

9 limited time and awakening the device after the non-operating system use is completed.

1   9. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a peripheral component interface

2 bus connected to said controller, to which other peripheral components can be connected.

1   10. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for generating a BIOS

2 update.

1   11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for generating is a flash

2 update.

1   12. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said device is a processor.

1   13. A method of operating a server, comprising:

2   providing a plurality of devices, a controller connected to said devices and a memory

3 connected to said controller;

4   using said devices to perform operating system tasks;

5   generating a false remove signal concerning at least one of said plurality of devices;

6   placing said device in a sleep state;

7   using said device for a non-operating system use for a limited time;

8   awakening said device after said non-operating system use ends.

1   14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said non-operating system use is a BIOS

2   update.

1   15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the update is a flash update.

1   16. The method according to claim 13, wherein said remove signal is generated in response

2   to a request to divert a device.

1   17. The method according to claim 13, wherein said awakening is in response to a second

2   false signal.

1   18. The method according to claim 13, wherein said device is a processor.